



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

OCT 29 2013

Mr. Ed Smith
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
6267 Delmar Boulevard, Suite 2E
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

Dear Mr. Smith:

Karl Brooks, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 7, forwarded your correspondence to me for response. The EPA's response to the questions you raised about the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site's OU-1 and OU-2 are addressed as follows:

Question 1: Did EPA Region 7 consider a landfill fire a threat to the radioactive wastes in OU-1 of the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site before issuing a Record of Decision in 2008? Please specify where landfill fires are addressed if they were considered.

Response: No. No landfill fires or subsurface oxidation events were identified during the remedial investigation, feasibility study or proposed plan phases of work on OU-1.

Question 2: What, if any, measures did the EPA undertake during the 1990's to ensure the landfill fire in the North Quarry of OU-2 did not reach OU-1 Area 1?

Response: Both the North Quarry and South Quarry landfills operated under permits from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. As the sole regulatory agency for issues at operating landfills, MDNR would have addressed any such events occurring in the North Quarry landfill. (In addition to this response, the April 1995 OU-2 RI/FS work plan, Section 2.5.4, mentions a 1993 "underground fire" in part of the North Quarry landfill cell and further states, "The area which separated from the quarry wall has been sealed with cement slurry.")

Question 3: Will the EPA give the public, as required by law, opportunity for a public meeting before the Gamma Cone Penetration Test and other remedial actions related to the fire-break as designated in 42 USC § 9617?

Response: No. The legal citation provided in the question applies to remedial actions only. The GCPT is not a remedial action.

Question 4: Republic Services plans... Will the EPA set up proper alpha, beta, and gamma air testing around the perimeter of the landfill and create a notification system in the case of a brush hog being used during the GCPT?



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Response: The vegetation clearing methods included in the approved GCPT work plan were selected with input from both the EPA and MDNR as the methods least likely to generate dust from surface soils. A “brush hog” will be used only when other vegetation clearing methods are unsuitable, and only after the area to be cleared has been wetted to minimize dust generation. No “notification system” for this vegetation clearing method is planned. Due to the minimal potential for dust generation, the ongoing air testing that is being conducted by MDNR around the perimeter of the facility has been determined to be adequately protective for the GCPT work. No additional air sampling is planned for the GCPT work.

We appreciate your continued interest in this site. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (913) 551-7733 or tapia.cecilia@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cecilia Tapia', enclosed within a circular, slightly irregular border.

Cecilia Tapia
Director
Superfund Division